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nations are parties in this case, and the point at issue is one the decision of which will have a very far-reaching effect in international relations hereafter. As being the second dispute actually handled by a panel from the Hague Court, this case will also be most influential in giving prestige to the Court and to the permanent institution of arbitration in general.

While these two important cases have been under discussion, some of the ten mixed commissions appointed to determine the amount of the claims to be paid by Venezuela to her creditors have also been at work, and one or two of them have already completed their labors and given their award.

In the meantime the three great organizations, whose purpose is the promotion of international friendship and the substitution of law for force in the relations of nations to each other, have been holding their annual meetings. These organizations, now in existence for many years, have grown to be very influential and command the attention and respect of the municipal and governmental authorities wherever they meet. The first of these meetings was the conference of the Interparliamentary Peace Union at Vienna from the 7th to the 9th of September. It was attended by a large number of delegates, members of the various parliaments, and was one of the most impressive meetings which the Union has ever held since its organization fourteen years ago. The officials of Vienna and of the Austrian government who received the delegates gave their unqualified approval and support of the object which the Union is pursuing, namely, the establishment of arbitration as the normal method of dealing with controversies and the promotion of closer and more cordial relations between the governments and peoples of the world.

Following the Conference of the Interparliamentary Union came the twelfth Universal Peace Congress at Rouen, France, the 22d to the 27th of September. The Congress, details of which will be given in our next issue, was attended by about five hundred delegates and adherents, and was, on the whole, one of the most enthusiastic, practical and successful of the whole series of peace congresses.

The last of the significant pacific events which the month has witnessed was the meeting of the International Law Association at Antwerp, Belgium, the 29th of September to the 2d of October. This was the twenty-first conference of the Association, and the presence of more than a hundred jurists and publicists from different countries and the able and animated discussions which marked the sessions bore strong testimony to the enlightened and generous spirit which is more and more controlling international public sentiment and developing between peoples a deeper and wider sense of justice, respect and humanity.

The month has been altogether an extraordinary

one, as will be seen from this brief rehearsal. The friends of peace never had greater reason to congratulate themselves on the certainty of the speedy and complete triumph of their principles and measures. There is no mistaking the meaning of the events alluded to. They may have little significance to those who measure occurrences by the noise, the sensational talk and the public disturbances which they produce. But to those who look beneath the surface and know the real springs and signs of progress, these events reveal clearly the fact that a new international era is already upon us; that the new pacific order, so long talked of, and which many believe to be yet far off, has already begun and is rapidly establishing itself in a strong and permanent way under our very eyes.

There is still much of indifference, of prejudice, of the power of blind traditional beliefs to be overcome before our great ideals can be fully realized. But if the friends of peace only comprehended what has been actually won, if they only knew the immense strength of their present position, if they only all had eyes to see, if they would only all quit talking doubtfully and seize with one accord the magnificent opportunity now before them, they would be able in a brief period to pull down the whole hoary structure of international animosity and its attendant militarism, and leave it a collapsed and irremediable ruin. The times are ripe and need men of faith and courage.

### The Anglo-French Arbitration Treaty.

Among the important events of the past month given in the foregoing editorial, the negotiation of the Anglo-French arbitration treaty would have been included if its conclusion had been known at the time of writing. The treaty, which had been under consideration for some time, has just been signed (October 14) and made public, and is as follows:

"The government of the French Republic and the government of his Britannic Majesty, signatories of the convention concluded at The Hague July 29, 1899, for the peaceful settlement of international disputes:

"Considering that by Article 19 of that treaty the high contracting powers reserve to themselves the right of concluding agreements with the view to have recourse to arbitration in all cases in which they shall consider it possible to submit thereto, have authorized the undersigned to agree to the following provisions:

"ARTICLE 1. Differences of a judicial order, or such as relate to the interpretation of treaties existing between the two contracting parties, which may arise between them, and which it may not be possible to settle by means of diplomacy, shall be submitted to the permanent court of arbitration established at The Hague by the convention of July 29, 1899, on condition, however, that they do not involve either vital interests or the independence or honor of the two contracting states, and that they do not affect the interests of a third power.

"ART. 2. In each particular case the high contracting parties, before addressing themselves to the permanent court of arbitration, shall sign a special arbitration bond setting forth clearly the subject under dispute, the extent of the powers of the arbitrators, and the details to be observed as regards the constitution of the arbitral tribunal and the procedure.

"ART. 3. The present arrangement is concluded for a term of five years from the date of the signature.

"CAMBON.

"LANSDOWNE."

The signing of this treaty is an event of world-wide importance. It is the first time that two great powers have entered upon such an agreement, the Anglo-American treaty having failed of ratification, and Chile and the Argentine Republic hardly being entitled to the rank of great powers. In the case of this treaty signing and ratification come practically to the same thing, as the convention has been made under the direct authority of the governments.

It is true that the scope of the treaty is seemingly not very wide. The agreement is only for five years, with no provisions for continuance; the cases to be submitted are not to involve either vital interests or the independence or honor of the two nations, or to affect the interests of a third power. This might give the governments easy escape under the treaty from submitting any question of importance, if they choose so to act. Again, the agreement applies only to cases of a judicial order and to such as relate to the interpretation of treaties. The latter class of cases is a very definite one, but also very restricted. "Differences of a judicial order" are of course very numerous, and the phrase may be so interpreted as to include nearly every sort of controversy which now arises between nations. The strength and value of the treaty lie to a considerable degree in this expression, which we have little doubt the governments in actual practice will interpret in a large and generous way.

But the significance of the treaty consists mainly in the recognition given by the two great nations to the growing public demand for the permanent substitution of arbitration for violence in the adjustment of international disputes and in the frank and unequivocal adoption of the permanent court at The Hague as the tribunal to which all references under the treaty shall be made. This action of the two foremost nations of Western Europe, both of which were signatories of the Hague Convention, is admirable. It puts the Hague Court finally into a position of vantage and prestige which can never hereafter be weakened. Any further special treaties of general arbitration between other states will inevitably follow the example of this convention and adopt the Hague Court as the tribunal to which all references shall be made.

The signing of this treaty is an event, therefore, over which the friends of peace everywhere may properly feel the greatest satisfaction. Especially may our English and French co-workers, who have for the past two years carried on such a vigorous and unremitting campaign in favor of an Anglo-French arbitration treaty, rejoice with exceeding great joy. The action which their governments have taken is a noble one, in harmony with the best spirit of the times, and other governments are sure speedily to follow the example. The treaty is probably all that could have been expected at the present time, though in some respects not all that could have been wished. It is in the right direction, and more and greater things are sure to follow. Obligatory arbitration is made by it the watchword of the immediate future. The movement has become practically irresistible, and before we suspect it some other great kindred announcement may come to us from some other quarter. While we are waiting and expecting, let us do our whole duty, for on that depends all further attainment.

### Editorial Notes.

In his new book, "The New American Lying in War. Navy," just being brought out by the Outlook Company, ex-Secretary of the Navy Long writes thus of an episode in the Secret Service during the Spanish War:

"The President and Secretary of the Navy determined to send two officers to Europe to report upon the movements of Cervera and those of Camara. To the first duty was assigned Ensign Henry Herbert Ward, and to the latter, Ensign William Henry Buck. Each in civilian garb was on board a foreign yacht, hired for the purpose, the officers and men of which had no knowledge of the business or character of their voyaging sightseer except that they were to take him wherever his pleasure inclined him to go.

"The Spanish agents at St. Thomas became suspicious of the young 'Englishmen,' Ward and Buck being regarded as of this nationality, and upon Ward's departure for San Juan they cabled the fact of his going to the Spanish authorities. Four officials of the port boarded the steamer when she reached San Juan, and cross-questioned the suspected passenger.

"So convincing was the American officer that he was finally advised that he would not be molested, but was not to be permitted ashore. Not content with his narrow escape, and desiring information in addition to that which he could get in the harbor, Ward protested to the British Consul at being confined to the ship, and through the intercession of that officer, who little knew whose cause he was advocating, the prohibition to land was removed. In company with the Consul and a Spanish naval officer, he landed and called upon the Naval Commandant, of whom he requested relief from the espionage of the Spaniards. This request was